

Minnesota's Boundary With Canada: Its Evolution Since 1783

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Book Notices

North to Montana! Jehus, Bullwhackers, and Mule Skinners on the Montana Trail, by Betty M. Madsen and Brigham D. Madsen. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1980. pp. xviii, 298, illustrations, maps, tables, appendices, notes, bibliography, index, \$20.00 cloth.)

The trail, as described in the text, was a freight and passenger road beginning in Salt Lake City and ending in Fort Benton, Montana. This route traversed the present states of Utah, Idaho, and Montana, supplying numerous hamlets with the sustenance and luxuries of life. This book, brilliantly written and well-researched, documents this important north-south trail from the 1840s through the 1880s. The authors, both well-versed in Rocky Mountain history, give detailed descriptions of the founding and settlement of individual communities served by the road. The book is aimed at the general reader as well as the scholar. One can obtain a good recipe for making Red-eye, learn what is meant to travel by "shanks' mare," know the biblical derivation of the term Jehu, and vicariously experience robberies by highwaymen such as that in the Portneuf Canyon near present-day Pocatello, Idaho.

Minnesota's Boundary with Canada: Its Evolution Since 1783, by William E. Lass. (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1980. pp. 141, illustrations, maps, notes, index, \$16.50 cloth, \$8.75 paper.)

This is a colorful and complex history of the international boundary separating Minnesota and Canada. The author, professor of history at Mankato State University, takes the reader from the waning days of the American Revolution to 1925. It is the story of diplomats, fur traders, surveyors, politicians, lumbermen, miners, farmers, and visionaries contending for advantage in the creation of a boundary between what is now the longest unguarded frontier in the world. The book is full of diplomatic intrigue, faulty maps, controversies, and compromises. It is skillfully researched and fulfills a need in the study of Anglo-American relations with our neighbor to the north.

—MDG

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